

Environmental Justice Hot Issues

Regional Administrator Speech at Arkansas Environment Federation – October 2011

Issue: Georgia Pacific LLC – Crossett Paper, Crossett, Arkansas

Background/Status:

Crossett is a low-income, African American community. A local resident submitted a complaint regarding odors and water discharges from the Georgia Pacific LLC – Crossett Paper facility located in Crossett, Arkansas on May 13, 2011. There are also two other portions of the facility at Crossett – a plywood plant and a chemical plant, both with separate Title V permits. A joint National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Clean Air Act complaint inspection was conducted May 23, 2011, in response to a complaint referral from EPA Region 6. No air issues were identified during this inspection.

In addition, the most recent State Full Compliance Evaluation (FCE) for Air Operating Permit 0597-AOP-R12 (Title V renewal permit) was conducted August 5-6, 2010. No compliance issues were found during this FCE.

Past Enforcement Activities:

- The facility was issued Consent Administrative Orders (CAO) in 2007 and 2011 for which it paid penalties of \$44,895 and \$21,525 respectively. The CAO in 2011 included a cash penalty of \$13,991.25, and a requirement to fund a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for \$7,533.75, to improve the recyclables collection program for local schools by placing collection bins on school grounds.
- During a review of chemical usage at the Crossett facility conducted on October 7-8, 2010, Georgia Pacific personnel discovered and self-reported a significant increase in the use of Pensol L 805, a solvent composed of 100% volatile organic compounds (VOCs), used to clean residue off the wires and felts of GP's tissue machines. The company estimated it had exceeded its combined emission limits for VOCs from its tissue machines by 38.5 tons. Georgia Pacific provided the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) with additional information concerning its exceedance of the VOC limits from the tissue machines and its plans for corrective action to minimize future VOC emissions from these machines.

Message

- Region 6 EJ staff plans to visit this community, gather more information, and is working with program staff to ensure information sharing.
- Stack testing is scheduled October 24-25, 2011, at the Georgia Pacific Crossett Paper Mill. A Full Compliance Evaluation (FCE) to determine compliance with air regulations will also be conducted. Two inspectors from ADEQ will be sent to Georgia Pacific to conduct the FCE.
- Staff from Region 6 Air Enforcement will coordinate with ADEQ regarding any areas of concern found during the scheduled FCE for stationary sources.
- Air Enforcement staff recommends the review for potential areas of concern regarding the discharge of hazardous waste into navigable waters of the State by Georgia Pacific.

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